

Announcing the staged implementation of the RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedures Related to Land Clearance without Prior HCV Assessment

In accordance with the RSPO Principles & Criteria (P&C), RSPO palm oil producer members are required to have completed HCV assessments of their land holdings for new plantings from November 2005. Specifically, Criteria 7.3 on new plantings specifies that *new planting since November 2005 have not replaced primary forest or any area required to maintain or enhance one or more High Conservation Values.*

Specific guidance for Indicator 7.3.1 states that *any land cleared since November 2005 without HCV assessment will not be included in RSPO certification programme until a an adequate compensation plan has been developed and approved.*

The RSPO Remediation and Compensation Procedures have been developed in order to establish a clear, formal, and transparent mechanism to identify and where appropriate, remediate or compensate for, potential losses of high conservation values associated with clearance of areas without prior HCV assessment. These procedures also provide a pathway for certification applicants in control of areas non-compliant with 7.3 to resolve their non-compliance in order to proceed with certification (or maintain their certified status).

The Remediation and Compensation procedures were developed by the Compensation Task Force (CTF), which was established in August 2011 as a sub-unit of the RSPO Biodiversity & High Conservation Values Working Group (BHCVWG). The CTF is a multi-stakeholder forum composed of RSPO members representing important stakeholder groups and additional invited experts.

The procedures include a number of key requirements as presented below:

- i. Disclosure of non-compliant land clearance (Section 4 and 5)
- ii. Land use change analysis and liability assessment (Section 6 and 7)
- iii. Development of Remediation and Compensation proposals (Section 8 to 13)

On March 6th 2014 the Board of Governors of the RSPO accepted the recommendations of the CTF to start a staged implementation of the Remediation and Compensation Procedures. This staged implementation is *designed to gather additional information and experiences in order to further refine the finalised procedures.*

The staged implementation, with an effective start date of May 9, 2014, requires all RSPO members who own and/or manage land for oil palm production to comply with all sections of the Remediation and Compensation Procedures, up to and including Section 7, 'Calculating conservation liability'. Until the staged implementation period ends members are encouraged to also comply with the remainder of this document.

Companies are required to disclose any non-compliant land clearance by end of July 2014, using the liability disclosure reporting template available on the RSPO website. In order to ensure full participation, all RSPO members who own and/or manage land for oil palm production are asked to submit a liability disclosure report for each of their management units by the end of July 2014 deadline, even if there is no potential non-compliant clearance for that unit.

The liability calculation in this staged implementation phase does not cover loss of social HCVs. Potential loss of social HCVs (HCV 4-6) shall be assessed, either through existing evidence or a new process. Identified impacts of loss of HCVs 4-6 shall be adequately remediated and/or compensated through a transparent, participatory and documented process.

All companies in control of areas with non-compliance land clearance are then **required to submit a Land Use Change analysis, including completed reporting template and supporting maps, data, and information, by end of September 2014**. The reporting template and requirements can be downloaded from the RSPO website. Companies are encouraged to proceed with development of compensation proposal after submission of conservation liability to RSPO. Compensation panel will be assigned to companies once compensation proposal is submitted. All information submitted during staged implementation period will NOT be made public.